

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 USIE-00 SS-15 SP-02 NSC-05 L-03
PA-01 PRS-01 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 /045 W
-----121639 121400Z /44
R 120810Z AUG 77
FM AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6549
INFO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L JOHANNESBURG 2115

DEPT PASS USIA

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, SF
SUBJECT: BPC REQUESTS USE OF USIS SOWETO READING ROOM FOR MEETINGS

1. ON AUGUST 10 AT 1815, WHILE IN READING ROOM, USIS FSL ZUKO TOFILE (READING ROOM DIRECTOR) WAS APPROACHED BY THREE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS OF BPC (BLACK PEOPLES CONVENTION), KEN RACHIDI, TAM MANTHATA, AND GEORGE WAUCHOPE. THEY SAID THEY WERE HAVING TROUBLE FINDING A MEETING PLACE. THEY FEARED MEETING IN A HOME. THEY ASKED TOFILE IF THEY COULD HAVE PERMISSION TO USE READING ROOM OCCASIONALLY FOR MEETINGS. THEY PARTICULARLY WANTED TO USE ROOM THAT NIGHT. MEETING WOULD BE COMPOSED OF EIGHT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS.

2. TOFILE TOLD GROUP HE DID NOT HAVE AUTHORITY TO ALLOW USE OF THE READING ROOM AND WOULD HAVE TO CONSULT HIS SUPERIORS. THEY ASKED TOFILE HOW LONG THAT WOULD TAKE. HE SAID HE WOULD GO TO USIS JOHANNESBURG AND ASK THE FOLLOWING DAY.

3. TOFILE RAISED MATTER WITH BPAO AUGUST 11. BPAO EXPLAINED THAT WE MUST REMAIN SCRUPULOUSLY NEUTRAL AND THAT IT WAS IMPERATIVE TO AVOID ACTIONS WHICH COULD BE INTERPRETED BY SAG AS MEDDLING OR INCITING. PRESENCE AND NEUTRALITY OF SOWETO USIS
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FACILITY WHICH WE HAVE SO CAREFULLY NURTURED DURING FIRST 18 MONTHS OF OPERATION COULD BE JEOPARDIZED BY ALLOWING BPC TO MEET THERE. (IT IS ACCEPTED THAT BPC IS HIGHLY RESPECTED BLACK CONSCIOUSNESS GROUP, A PRIMARY AUDIENCE, AND NOT ILLEGAL.)

4. IN FIRST INSTANCE, BPAO TOLD TOFILE TO TELL BPC IF THEY ASKED AGAIN THAT REPRESENTATIVE OF BPC WOULD HAVE TO APPROACH

BPAO OR ABPAO TO DISCUSS REQUEST. THAT WOULD ALLOW AT LEAST
DIPLOMATIC TURN-DOWN WITH OPPORTUNITY TO GIVE FULL EXPLANATION.

5. CONCLUSION: IF AND WHEN FURTHER APPROACH BY BPC IS MADE,
BPAO OR ABPAO, AS AGREED WITH CONGEN AND UNLESS OTHERWISE
DIRECTED, WILL INFORM GROUP ITS REQUEST MUST BE DENIED. (FYI:
BESIDES OVERRIDING NEED KEEP US PREMISE PRISTINELY PURE
POLITICALLY, THERE IS OF COURSE ALWAYS CONSIDERABLE CHANCE OF
INFORMERS BEING AWARE ANY ARRANGEMENT. ALSO, BPC HAS OTHER
VENUES AVAILABLE IN SOWETO, SUCH AS CHURCHES.)
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: READING ROOMS, MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 12-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977JOHANN02115
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770291-0187
Format: TEL
From: JOHANNESBURG
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770868/aaaacfjy.tel
Line Count: 73
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 7f56755b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1620422
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BPC REQUESTS USE OF USIS SOWETO READING ROOM FOR MEETINGS
TAGS: PINT, PDIP, SF, US, BPC
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/7f56755b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009